

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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TAGS: TPHY, OSCI, TS

SUBJECT: SPECIAL FOREIGN CURRENCY SCIENCE PROGRAM -
"MODEL AGREEMENT"

REF: TUNIS 7805

1. DEPARTMENT CONVENED INTERAGENCY GROUP ON DEC. 13 TO REVIEW FURTHER DRAFT OF COMMON ADMINISTRATIVE TERMS TO BE USED FOR SFCP PROJECTS. THIS REVIEW HAD BEEN DELAYED DUE TO FULL COMMITMENTS IN PRECEDING THREE WEEKS IN CONNECTION WITH YUGOSLAV AND POLISH JOINT BOARDS HERE. RELATIVELY MINOR REVISIONS NOW IN REDRAFT AND WE ANTICIPATE SHORTLY TO HAVE AGENCIES APPROVAL AND BE ABLE TO SUBMIT TO EMBASSY AND GOT FOR CONSIDERATION.

2. CALCULATION RECENTLY COMPLETED BY M/FRM/FM ON RECOMMENDED LEVEL OF DINAR USAGE FOR SCIENCE AGENCIES FOR FY 1975 IS \$2.0 MILLION EQUIVALENT COMPARED TO \$2.8 MILLION IN FY 1974 AND \$2.7 MILLION IN FY 1973. DECLINING LEVEL REFLECTS IN LARGE PART INFLATIONARY INCREASES FOR ESSENTIAL U.S. USES TOGETHER WITH ESTIMATED REDUCTION IN RECEIPTS AND SUGGESTS MAY BE SMALLER FUTURE
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AVAILABILITIES FOR RESEARCH. WORKING GROUP NOW DEVELOPING

AGENCIES' VOLUNTARY ALLOCATIONS ON BASIS \$2.0 MILLION
EQUIVALENT FOR THIS YEAR.

3. WE ORIGINALLY HAD IN MIND THAT OFFICIAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT TO GENERAL PROVISIONS REFERRED TO PARA 1 BE ACCOMPLISHED BY UMBRELLA-TYPE S&T AGREEMENT. HOWEVER IN VIEW OF LIMITED AVAILABILITIES REFERRED TO IN PARA 2 WE BELIEVE NOW THIS SHOULD BE DONE BY EXCHANGE OF NOTES IN ORDER TO AVOID INTERPRETATION OF LONG-TERM OR INCREASING PROGRAM WHICH WE NOT LIKELY TO BE ABLE TO SUSTAIN. WILL PROVIDE TEXT OF DRAFT NOTE ALSO.

4. BECAUSE OF ABOVE FACTORS AS WELL AS SPECIFIC PROVISIONS SUCH AS FOR ARCHEOLOGICAL WORK, WE BELIEVE SMI 1968 AGREEMENT MIGHT BEST REMAIN IN FORCE, AND "MODEL AGREEMENT" APPLY TO THE OTHER US SCIENCE AGENCIES AND SPECIFICALLY TO GRANTS MADE TO TUNISIAN INSTITUTIONS. SMI HOWEVER WOULD INTEND TO ABIDE INFORMALLY WITH THE "MODEL AGREEMENT" TO EVERY EXTENT CONSISTENT AND MOFA WOULD BE KEPT INFORMED OF ITS PROPOSED PLANS TOGETHER WITH THOSE OF OTHER AGENCIES.

5. RE PARA 4 REFTTEL, WE WILL PROVIDE EMBASSY PROJECT PLANS FOR REMAINDER OF FY 1975 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER COMPLETION BY AGENCIES OF VOLUNTARY ALLOCATIONS OF FUNDS FOR THIS YEAR. UPON FORMALIZATION OF "MODEL AGREEMENT" WE WILL PROVIDE PROJECTION FOR FY 1976. HOWEVER ANY SUCH ADVANCE PROJECTION CAN AT MOST BE ONLY TENTATIVE SINCE SCIENCE ALLOCATION FOR ANY GIVEN FISCAL YEAR CAN ONLY BE DEVELOPED IN SECOND QUARTER OF THE YEAR AS IS CASE THIS AND PREVIOUS TWO YEARS. KISSINGER

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